

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A developing device, comprising:

a mechanism configured to determine whether the developing device is new or unused for a period longer than a predetermined time;

a toner supplying roller configured to supply a one-component toner for developing an image;

a developing roller configured to transfer the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and to move away from the developing position; and

~~a sealing member arranged in a vicinity of the developing roller and configured to seal the one-component toner within the developing device; and~~

a toner layer regulating roller arranged in contact with the developing roller and configured ~~to lock a rotating operation in~~ not to rotate with the developing roller during the image forming operation, to regulate the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the developing roller into a thin layer, and to freely ~~follow~~ rotate with the developing roller ~~[[in]]~~ during a non-image forming operation.

Claim 2 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 3 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 4 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the developing roller is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 5 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the developing roller passes by the developing position.

Claim 6 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein a rotation number of the developing roller in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the developing roller in the image forming operation.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A developing device, comprising:
means for determining whether the developing device is new or unused for a period longer than a predetermined time;

means for supplying a one-component toner for developing an image;

means for transferring the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and for moving away from the developing position; and

~~means arranged in a vicinity of the means for transferring for sealing the one-component toner within the developing device; and~~

means arranged in contact with the means for transferring ~~for locking a rotating operation in the image forming operation~~, for regulating the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the means for transferring into a thin layer, ~~and for freely following the means for regulating does not rotate with the means for transferring during the image forming operation and rotates with the means for transferring during the means for transferring in a non-image forming operation.~~

Claim 8 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 9 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 10 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the means for transferring is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 11 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the means for transferring passes by the developing position.

Claim 12 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein a rotation number of the means for transferring in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the means for transferring in the image forming operation.

Claims 13 -17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A process cartridge, comprising:
an image bearing member;
and a developing device which comprises, a toner supplying roller configured to supply a one-component toner for developing an image;
a mechanism configured to determine whether the developing device is new or unused for a period longer than a predetermined time;
a developing roller configured to transfer the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and to move away from the developing position; and
~~a sealing member arranged in a vicinity of the developing roller and configured to seal the one-component toner within the developing device; and~~
a toner layer regulating roller arranged in contact with the developing roller and configured ~~to lock a rotating operation in~~ not to rotate with the developing roller during the image forming operation, to regulate the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the developing roller into a thin layer, and to freely ~~follow~~ rotate with the developing roller ~~[[in]]~~ during a non-image forming operation.

Claim 19 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 20 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 21 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the developing roller is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 22 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the developing roller passes by the developing position.

Claim 23 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein a rotation number of the developing roller in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the developing roller in the image forming operation.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). A process cartridge, comprising:
an image bearing member;

and a developing device which comprises, means for supplying a one-component toner for developing an image;

means for determining whether the developing device is new or unused for a period longer than a predetermined time;

means for transferring the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and for moving away from the developing position; and

~~means arranged in a vicinity of the means for transferring for sealing the one-component toner within the developing device; and~~

means arranged in contact with the means for transferring ~~for locking a rotating operation in the image forming operation,~~ for regulating the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the means for transferring into a thin layer, ~~and for freely following the means for regulating does not rotate with the means for transferring during the image forming operation and rotates with the means for transferring during the means for~~ transferring in a non-image forming operation.

Claim 25 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 26 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 27 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the means for transferring is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 28 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the means for transferring passes by the developing position.

Claim 29 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein a rotation number of the means for transferring in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the means for transferring in the image forming operation.